



## Fernandes Dairy

Joe Fernandes and Sons Dairy is a third Generation family partnership between Joe Fernandes and his five sons Greg, Gary, Frank, Jared, Josh.

Joe and his brother Johnny bought out their father Frank Fernandes in 1958 and started milking 200 cows on a rented dairy.

In 1984 Joe and Johnny split equity and Joe started a partnership with his sons as each one came home from college.

Today, Joe Fernandes and Sons Dairy consists of over 4500 acres of farm ground 3500 head of milk cows and 3000 head of replacement stock. The Farm grows all of the forage needs for the dairy along with Cotton for crop rotation.

In the fall of 2000 cows were moved to a new facility built in Porterville California. The 3000 cows are milked 3 times a day with a 72 stall rotary parlor.

Rotary parlors are built so cows enter from a fixed point, ride a rotating disk and exit at a second fixed point. Since the disk rotates, operators remain at fixed positions and cows pass by as the disk turns. After the milking unit is attached, the cow moves past the operator who attached the claw. If the milking machine liners slip or fall



off, a special effort must be made by someone to adjust or reattach the milking claw.

The cows are housed in

sand bedded freestalls. The dairy produces over 30,000 gallons of milk per day, and has 26 employees.

## Sierra Forest Products

Sierra Forest Products is a locally owned and operated company started in 1967.

The company produces kiln dried, surfaced lumber. The species of trees used are 50 percent white fir, 40 ponderosa pine and sugar pine and 10 incense cedar. About 90 percent of the lumber produced is sold and shipped by truck throughout California, Arizona, New Mexico

and Texas.

The company works year-round and employs 150 people at the Terra Bella plant. Until recent years approximately 95 percent of the logs were purchased from the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. Due to the present reluctance of the Forest Service to actively manage their lands, this is presently at about 50 percent. The re-

mainder is purchased from Mountain Home State Forest, the Tule River Indian Reservation and from private land-owners.

Sierra Forest products also produces by-products that include wood chips, bark, sawdust and shavings. Some of the by-product is burned in their power plant for electrical generation. It produces enough energy to supply

about 7,500 homes with electricity.

The annual gross sales of lumber and by-products total \$28 million with an annual payroll of \$4 million at the Terra Bella plant and an additional \$2 million for employees working in logging.

